The GLOBE, supermarket tabloid, to retract 2/24/93

About a year ago this supermarket tabloid had a JFK assassination story ostensibly written by a Britisher in California quoting me on the JFK assassination. The file appears to have been moved to the basement. It was at the time of attention to the mostrous book "Mortal Error" accusing Secret Service Agent Hickey of killing JFK by accident. Part of the quote attributed to me was accurate, most was not, was the opposite of what I've always written and said. When told about it for the first time I bought a supermarket tabloid. The masthead disclosed that we knew one of the editors from when he was an Enquirer reporter. I phoned him, Rod Gibson, and he said he'd have someone who knew about the story phone me. When nobody did I phoned him again. He then told me that an editor he named, I think, Levy, would phone me. He didn't but the reporter did from Calif. He said the part of the story I objected to he did not write. He promised to send me a copy of what he did write but he didn't. Because that did not undo what had been done I wrote the Globe again. Again I heard nothing. Not very long ago, last month, when I saw the paper I'd been keeping out of file expecting to hear from it, I again wrote. Again hearing nothing I again forgot. Last night, suppertime, Dan Dolan, apparently an editor, phoned with an apology. He apologized for the delays and for the time it took him to be able to report what happened to me once he saw my last letter. He had checked, he had found my letter accurate, and they were going to print an explanation/retraction! That surprised me because I've never heard of one of those sheets doing that. Dolan wanted to talk and we did.

It turns out that he was in the Carter White House press office. Like many competent reporters he apparently took a job there because the pay is so good. When I explained that such a story could hurt me the way the government uses them he misunderstood how it dould hurt me and told me that he got the file on himself and found an account of an FBI investigation of him when he was 11 years old. I think he said he lived in New Jersey and I have a dim recollection of that becoming public then.

In school there was an assignment to write a paper about the USSR. He had heard of collective farms, decided to write about them, and wrote the embassy for information.

It turns out that his father was named Dan and the FBI started investigating his father!

His explanation of how words I never used were attributed to me were not entirely clear but I asked no questions because he said he had to keep the name of a federal agent confidential. This name appears in connection with what is not related to me that the computer spilled out at the crease in the paper after what was attributed to me. It may be that the federal agent was quoting somebody else. I doubt it was his own words, and from recollection it may have been a Secret Service agent speaking of someone else and what he had said. Dolan said he'd send me a copy when they publish it, in the coming issue or the one after it.

It has been years since I had any connection with any of the supermarket tabloids. Dolan referred to the Globe as "the weekly magazine, The Globe." Years ago I was used extensively by some of the editors and a number of reporters on The National Enquirer. And for a publication like it our experiences with its reporters wefe surprising. with one exception they were fine and considerate people. Some were here often. They phoned me more often. It got to the point where they were taking so much time checking with me, mostly by phone, that I said I had to be paid for that time. They then began to pay me a $300 consultation fee for each call. Onne in a two-day period I made $2,500 dollars by checking for it and giving it information. That is how I was able toafford such labor-savers as an industrial model snowblower I gave to hood College this past fall because I've not been able to use it for years and all the neighborhood boys who loved to use it have grown up and moved away, to college or to jobs. I remember that I also gotha fine weedeater with saw blades that enable me to clear the otherwise inaccessible banks of the pond.

What The Enquirer attrbuted to me was not always exactly what I'd said but I never got any bad reaction from any of it. That was inthe earlier days. Whey were first in contact with me about 28 years ago, when they were in New Jersey, before moving to Florida.

The Enquirer was, in World War II, a pro-Hitler, pro-Irish fascist weekly, standard newspaper size, owned by a man named Griffin.Strong supporter of such outfits as The Christian Front, Catholic fascist. After that war itscirculation fell, it was going broke, and Generoso Pope Jr. bought it, reportedly for $50,000 that, again reportedly he borrowed from the mafia. I had and have trouble believing that bexause his father was wealthy. A successul and reportedly crooked New York contractor, he owned a pro-fascist, pro- Mussoline newspaper, Il Populo Italo-Americano. His son made The Enquirer first into a blood-and-guts tabloid and then into a rag of its present content.

Wild as the stories these sheets publish are they are proud of their checking. Rod Gibson once told us of being sent to Brazil to check on a story that had a mountain bleeding blood. Last night Dolan referred to their careful checking. Gibson, who'd been a Chicago Tribune reporter when Pope offered him more money, told us that Pope often celebrated Xmas by handing out unannounced and unexpected pink slips, no discharge pay, either. But he did pay very well and attracted many reporters from the British "popular" press some of whom became out friends and we regard as good and thoughful people.

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